

## **MINUTES**

### **FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**OCTOBER 15, 2018**

#### **CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, INVOCATION, AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Goolsby gave the invocation. Present for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Greg Goolsby, John Howard, Chris Hewett, and Melvin Lawrence. Also present was City Attorney, Bobby Melton, and City Manager, Janice Hall.

Councilman Stroud was unable to attend the meeting; therefore, all unanimous votes will be five (5) votes for (Dodd, Goolsby, Howard, Hewett, and Lawrence).

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE October 1, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING**

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT-LANE NORRIS**

Lane Norris, a fifteen year old sophomore with Boy Scout Troup # 101 is working on a community project that is required for an Eagle Scout award. He presented his project for a drop box for American flag disposal on the corner of the property at the Forsyth Fire Department. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the project and Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Mr. Goolsby asked if the City could provide concrete and Lane Norris explained that he needs to do all of this project by himself in order to receive the award. Mr. Dodd questioned the placement of the drop box on the corner and asked if he would work with the City Manager to decide if this is the best placement. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **LEADERSHIP MONROE PROJECT-KAYLEIGH SULLIVAN**

Kayleigh Sullivan, member of the 2018 Monroe Leadership Class, reviewed with Council that the Class has chosen a fox hunt project for their class project. They will be distributing small fox statues around town. Ms. Sullivan requested permission from council to place a large fox statue in Lee Street Park and a small fox statue at Main and Jackson Streets next to the stairs and ramp. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the placement of the statues for fox hunt project. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY (SDS)-KAYLEIGH SULLIVAN, REGIONAL COMMISSION**

Ms. Sullivan reviewed that the current SDS Extension will expire on October 31, 2018. Ms. Sullivan recommended submitting an additional extension before the October 31 deadline as this will allow the Department of Community Affairs the thirty day review process. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the SDS Extension to February, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION FOR PRE-APPLICATION FOR LAND & WATER CONSERVATION**

#### **FUND (LWCF)-GOLF COURSE PROJECTS**

Mrs. Hall reviewed the proposed projects list. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the Resolution for pre-application for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for the golf course projects. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **2019 PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Mrs. Hall reviewed the 2019 proposed budget. Mrs. Hall stated that after review, and any requested changes, the proposed budget will be advertised for a public hearing for adoption at the last council meeting in December.

(Mr. Stroud arrived during the budget presentation at approximately 6:20 pm; therefore, all unanimous votes will now be six (6) votes Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Howard, Hewett, and Lawrence.)

### **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES - \$281,187.40**

Mrs. Hall reviewed the invoices for approval by department for general invoices totaling \$281,187.40.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the accounts payable as presented. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried with five (5) votes for and one (1) abstention (Dodd due to invoices for his business being included in the invoices presented).

### **APPROVAL OF REQUISITIONS GREATER THAN \$5,000**

- a. McLaggan Communications – lasers, tint meters, flashlights - \$9,278
- b. Chatham Warning Devices – equipment for new vehicles - \$5,514
- c. Viking Engineering & Construction Mngt – dredge upper pond at RWTP - \$34,954
- d. Williams Communications – 3 radios for new vehicles - \$8,306.96
- e. Axon Enterprise – purchase 4 Tasers - \$6,755

Mrs. Hall pointed out cost savings by Chief Harris with the purchase of equipment from Chatham Warning Devices for used but warrantied equipment saving approximately \$15,000 on this purchase.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the requisitions greater than \$5,000 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

### **REPORTS**

#### **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Mrs. Hall offered the following report:

- Auto pay for utility bills is now available through Government Window; customers wanting their monthly bill amount to be drafted from their account should go to the city website at [cityofforsyth.net](http://cityofforsyth.net) and create an account if they do not already have one (if do not have one, will need account number to sign up); once they have an account, they can click on auto pay and complete the information there; Government Window will draft their bank account on the due date of their utility bill.
- Hurricane Michael update:
  - o Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was manned from 8 pm on Wednesday night to 8 am on Thursday morning; city and county employees worked side by side taking calls and dispatching them; this is a process that we have refined with each storm; EOC works to take calls for power outages and trees down and get those out in the field as quickly as possible – Irma and Michael have taught us that there are times that we cannot have people out in the field but we assure you that those workers are standing ready as soon as permitted to get out and do their jobs; huge thanks to all those working the EOC inside away from the elements and especially those out in the field working to restore power and clear roadways
  - o Huge thank you to our electric department for their work on restoring the power outages that we had; truly wish we could have restored power sooner but it was unsafe to send the linemen out in the wind gust that we were experiencing into the early morning hours; think about being suspended in the bucket, in the dark, with 40+ mph winds – not a job I would want to do but we thank our linemen for their work
  - o Early Thursday morning we received information from ECG that there were estimated to be over 100,000 electric customers without service, 15 communities had requested line crew assistance; and 38 dispatched line crew were assigned to assist ECG members from Mississippi, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Learned this morning in a meeting with MEAG that all MEAG substations were back online yesterday.
  - o We received a call from the Fire Chief of Donalsonville requesting water. We are collecting bottled water at the Forsyth Fire Station through this Saturday, October 20.

- Very fittingly, we will have the annual employee appreciation this Wednesday beginning at 11:30 am, lunch at noon at the fire station in the fire bay. Please attend if at all possible.
- Resolutions to deed the city hall building to the DDA have been approved by City and DDA and Mr. Melton is recording the deed; the DDA is working on cost estimates for work to be done on the exterior of the building and will come to the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting to make a presentation to council. I have received the appraisal for the city hall and city hall annex buildings.
- One Monroe quarterly meeting will be October 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 at the Fine Arts building. Need to RSVP as soon as possible.
- Mayor and Council have received invitations to the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual 90-100 Year old Birthday Celebration at MC Senior Center on October 18 at 11:00 am.

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

Mr. Melton had nothing further to report.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Wilson reported on the MEAG meeting today stating that MEAG is doing a good job looking-out for cities regarding the JEA lawsuit. Mr. Wilson also reported that he, along with Commissioner Greg Tapley, and Macon’s Mayor Robert Reichert will be in Washington, DC on October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> to meet with the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the Clean Air Coalition’s position on proposed emission control changes being discussed at the Federal level. All expenses for the trip are being covered by the Clean Air Coalition.

Mayor Wilson will also be attending a Central Georgia Technical College board member’s conference the end of October. This trip is at no cost to the City of Forsyth.

**ADDITIONAL COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mr. Lawrence stated that Cedric Ponders is wanting to have his annual Halloween party in Kynette Park which would involve closing Parson Street. Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to close Parson Street on October 31<sup>st</sup> contingent on Mr. Ponder submitting the proper paperwork. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stroud stated that our right-of-way cutting needs improvement referencing that the trees that we cut in his yard and his Mother’s yard look horrible. Mr. Stroud suggested that if the City is cutting significant limbs can we cut the tree down to the stump rather than leaving a portion of the tree.

Mr. Hewett also reminded Mrs. Hall that the yield sign is still not on I-75 entrance ramp at Exit 187 and the “No truck signs” have not yet been placed on the square.

Mr. Stroud commented regarding the pedestrian light timing is not working as it starts at 99 down to 80.

Mrs. Hall reviewed that Volume Chevrolet has hit solid rock while digging for their retention pond and will have to do some blasting.

Mr. Lawrence thanked Mrs. Hall for working with him on citizen complaints that he receives.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (MAYOR WILSON TO REVIEW RULES FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS)**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

An executive session was not needed.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Submitted by:  
Janice L. Hall, City Manager